



# The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

[www.SBHumanists.org](http://www.SBHumanists.org)

NOVEMBER 2025

## *Prisons to Partnerships: A Time For New Thinking, New Energy & New Action Zoom Conference*

**Our Program:** Humanists are interested in rational, compassionate, workable solutions to solving human problems. A significant issue in the U.S. is mass incarceration and the tendency of formerly incarcerated people to re-offend and return to prison at great cost to their families, communities, and to taxpayers. What is the lived experience for people caught up in these difficult circumstances and what are the bright spots of reform?

Join us this month on Zoom to hear presentations by formerly incarcerated people, by impacted moms, children, and spouses; by a former prison warden, by reform program founders, and by prison and reentry volunteers—all with something important to share about their lived experience and the bright spots of transformation now underway.

The conference features 12 speakers plus opening and closing keynote talks with opportunities to interact with the speakers and other attendees throughout the day.

**When:** Saturday November 22, 9:00 – 6:00 pm PST. **Where:** [On Zoom – Register Here](#).



This P2P conference is cosponsored by *Another Way To Go*, the *Humanist Society of Santa Barbara*, the *Southern California Secular Coalition*, and *Options Recovery Services*.

**Dr. Christopher DiCarlo:  
Building A God: Artificial Intelligence and  
the Future of Humanity**

9/20/2025- By Robert Bernstein

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) is like a tsunami on the horizon. It doesn't look like much. But it's 100 feet tall and coming at us at 100 mph." That is how Canadian philosopher, educator and author Christopher DiCarlo began his talk.



**Dr. Christopher DiCarlo**  
Philosopher, Educator, Author

He offered some memorable predictive quotes. Irving John Good was a British mathematician who worked as a cryptologist at Bletchley Park with Alan Turing, a key role in winning World War II. In 1965 Good wrote, "Thus the first ultra intelligent machine is the last invention that man need ever make, provided that the machine is docile enough to tell us how to keep it under control."

In *Jurassic Park* Dr. Ian Malcolm said, "Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether they could, they didn't stop to think if they should."

DiCarlo's talk was organized into three sections:

1. What is AI?
2. AI's Benefits and Harms
3. What Can We Do?

**Part 1: What is AI?**

In 1950 Alan Turing asked what it would mean for machines to think. He proposed his imitation

game, now called the Turing Test. A person would sit at a keyboard and converse via teletype with a machine and with a human. The machine would pass the Turing Test if it was impossible to tell which was the machine.

Well, we have passed that point. Current machines can seem more human than some humans.

In 1956 a summer research project at Dartmouth was convened by Information Theory inventor Claude Shannon and computer scientists Marvin Minsky and John McCarthy. (I should note that I juggled with Claude Shannon at MIT and unicycled with his granddaughter there. I also had some notably interesting arguments with Marvin Minsky on the subject of consciousness. He denied consciousness was a thing.)

They thought that a summer project would be enough to solve at least some major parts of creating an 'artificial intelligence' (the origin of the term). They came up very short on those goals. To paraphrase a certain 'very stable genius', "Who knew that artificial intelligence was SO complicated?"

In the 1990s DiCarlo was working on his PhD. He wanted to do something to make the world better. He met with others in academia and politics, wanting to put Canada on the map.

He worked on the 'Onion Skin Theory of Knowledge' or OSTOK. The idea was to develop a process that would help legislators to make inferences we humans fail to see, and to solve problems like ending world hunger and curing cancer.

Everyone said it was a good idea, but there was no funding for it. He wrote an article for an engineering journal explaining how it would need to be 'boxed' so that it could not get out and cause harm.

He and his colleagues had thought the issue of AI danger was 100 years away. It is clear now it is way sooner. He is devoting his life to this issue. It is the most important issue facing humanity now... more so than nuclear weapons and climate threats, in his view.

DiCarlo went on to explain the difference between Weak AI and Strong AI.

*Weak AI* is Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI). It is tailored to solve specific tasks. We have this now. It can't get beyond what we ask it to do. Examples are Siri, Alexa, Watson, and self-driving vehicles.

*Strong AI* has two types:  
Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)  
Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI)

An AGI can do anything a human can do, but much faster. It is 'agentic' meaning that it acts as an autonomous agent. It is good at multitasking, and it can improve itself.

ASI is a bigger concern. AGI won't persist as AGI. Because of its ability for self-improvement, AGI will create ASI and will inevitably surpass human intelligence and could pose a threat to humankind.

DiCarlo assured us that AGI is coming. And we need laws or guardrails in place before it happens.

We are now living in a real life science fiction movie. ASI is currently theoretical. But we are on an exponential path toward it being reality.

AI experts now believe AGI is inevitable. Geoffrey Hinton is considered the 'godfather of AI'. He pioneered the neural networks and deep learning that are at the heart of current AI. He just won a Nobel Prize for this work.

Two years ago, Hinton said that AGI is 10-20 years away. He now says it is about 2-5 years

away. He resigned from Google so he could speak widely about the threat this poses.



We now have a set of 'tech bro billionaires' running the AI industry. Sam Altman (lower right in the above image) founded OpenAI with the goal of creating AI in an open and transparent manner. It was to be a non-profit operating in the public interest.

But that mission has changed. Dario Amodei (lower left) left OpenAI over ethics concerns and founded Anthropic with the goal of keeping AI ethical.

Mark Zuckerberg (upper left) is also pouring vast sums of money into AI, as is Elon Musk (top center). DiCarlo wishes we could get the old 2015 version of Musk back! DiCarlo also sees Zuckerberg as having no morals.

DiCarlo wanted us to understand the positive side of what AI can do. Demis Hassabis (top right) co-founded Google's DeepMind and he supervised the creation of AlphaFold. This AI was able to solve the vitally important 'protein folding' problem in biology.

Our genes create strings of amino acids that form proteins. These linear strings fold up to form three dimensional structures that are the basis of all living things. It used to take months

## The HSSB Secular Circular – November 2025

or years to figure out the structure of just one protein.

In 1994 a formal challenge was created to solve this problem. Hassabis shared the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for solving this problem in 2022. AlphaFold could solve a million protein folds in an afternoon!

Before AlphaFold, 194,000 protein structures were known. Thanks largely to AlphaFold, we now know over 200 million protein structures!

[Note: The movie, *The Thinking Game*, about Demis Hassabis and his team at DeepMind pursuing AGI through playing games, from Pong to Go, and then solving protein folding, is fascinating and is now available on Amazon Prime. Check it out! –ed.]

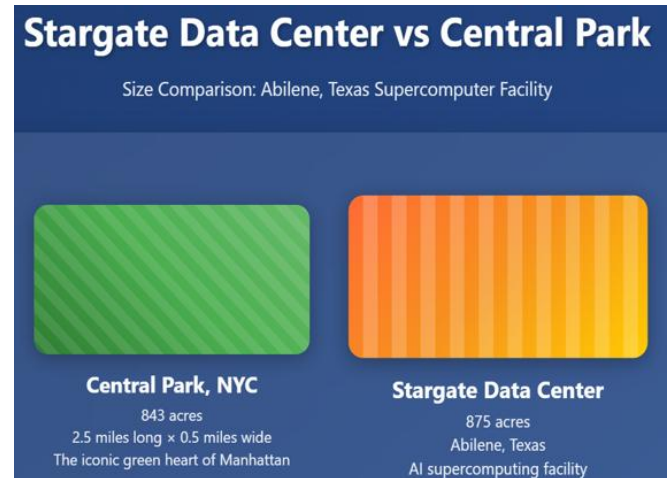
DiCarlo returned to the ‘sky is falling’ stuff! He told us that Sam Harris said that the first one to create AGI will immediately be 50 years ahead of the competition because it can work out how to build the next generation of machines. It will be god-like. We have never built a god before. We must tell it how to behave.

What about China? We believe we are ahead of China and that no one else is close: not Putin, nor Iran. Sam Altman is closest now, and Zuckerberg is working to steal people from successful projects.

Stargate is a \$500 billion AI joint venture in Abilene, Texas, using Nvidia chips. There is also a Stargate UAE. DiCarlo explained that Trump didn't just go to the Middle East to get a plane. He was striking a deal with the United Arab Emirates.

DiCarlo explained that Saudi leader Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud may be ruthless, but he is not stupid. He knows that oil is finite, so he's cutting a deal with Trump along with Musk and Altman. (Don Jr. was negotiating a \$2 billion bitcoin deal over there at the same time.)

The Stargate Abilene facility extends over 875 acres: bigger than Central Park. Modular nuclear power is being considered to power it. Meanwhile, Bill Gates is trying to restart Three Mile Island.



AI is already using more power than all of Japan! And it needs a lot of water for cooling. On the other hand, there is hope that AGI might actually solve the Climate Crisis.

Zuckerberg is building a larger (2GW+) AI computer farm in Louisiana. It's half the size of Manhattan and three times the size of Stargate.



To become familiar with new forms of AI, DiCarlo recommends playing around with the existing Large Language Models (LLMs). You can try ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Llama, Grok. Some have free versions. These use Hinton's neural network architecture.

They still must be trained by humans to reinforce what is correct, but these systems can easily scrape the internet for data.

DiCarlo gave an example with an old version 3 of ChatGPT. He asked it to write a 1,500-word essay on why Hamlet hesitated to kill his stepfather; and to write the essay in iambic pentameter. It did so in five seconds and it is impressive.

DALL-E can create images from text prompts. DiCarlo's dog, Pyrrho, recently died. DALL-E was able to create images of DiCarlo walking Pyrrho in Central Park.



Google's VEO 3 creates videos from text prompts. Try having it create a bedtime story. Give it a list of characters and names. You get a five minute cartoon. You can ask it to create original accompanying music based on one of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*.

VFX (visual effects) technology can create deep fakes showing real people doing things they never actually did. Even four years ago the results were good. Sam Altman said AI is now the "dumbest it will ever be". By this, he means it always gets better.

DiCarlo suggested that in the future there will be no need to see what is on TV. You can just ask your TV to create a program on demand. You can put famous actors in it, or put your own family members in it. Give it photos and it will create 3D characters.

**Part 2: AI's Benefits and Harms.** DiCarlo listed his top ten benefits.

1. Healthcare: Improved diagnostics. Some are already better than a human radiologist. An AI can analyze vast amounts of data. It can use 'Chain of Reasoning' to explain

how it got its answer. It is good enough to write a research paper with a 50% chance of publication. PANDA can find pancreatic cancer at Stage 1. Paraplegics can strap on exoskeletons and walk. DiCarlo imagines scalpel-less surgery using nanobots.

2. Education: Not to replace teachers, but to evaluate students so teachers can effectively provide needed help.
3. Industry: Automate repetitive and mundane tasks.
4. Enhanced Safety and Security: Catch bad guys and let good guys go. It will be an arms race with Russian hackers.
5. Sustainable Development: Optimize energy consumption.
6. Transportation: Create lanes for autonomous vehicles to follow each other closely, functionally acting like trains.
7. Customer Service: 24/7 bot to answer questions. It will know everything about the company. Some will lose jobs, but 'hopefully' will create new ones.
8. Scientific Discoveries: Geniuses connect what others don't see and make inferences. Machines can do that. He would like to know why Canadians have the highest rate of bowel cancer!
9. Assist Disabled People: DiCarlo is sad that Christopher Reeve is no longer alive. In five years we may have the technology to allow paraplegics to walk again; perhaps even treatments or cures. AIs already can communicate with people who are in a 'locked in' state such as in a coma or in a persistent vegetative state.
10. Cultural and Creative Contributions: Otherworldly art and music.

## The HSSB Secular Circular – November 2025

He then listed the top 10 harms. What could go wrong?

1. **Absence of Clarity:** The 'black box' problem Max Tegmark is working to crack, e.g. Facebook feeds us what we want to see. We have a susceptibility to confirmation bias. We go down rabbit holes of conspiracy theories.
2. **Bias and Discrimination:** Current AIs absorb our biases. We want facts as clean as possible. Perhaps we should not train AIs on the entire Internet, just in areas vetted for accuracy. Citibank's algorithms were denying people of color mortgages based on their ZIP codes.
3. **Privacy Considerations:** Financial and health care data. Russian hackers are already using AIs to make fake phone calls, e.g. of your grandchild calling to say they were arrested in Guatemala and need you to wire money. DiCarlo experienced this 6 months ago when he got a fake phone call from his 'son' calling to say he had been in a traffic accident. It seemed very real. Then he got suspicious and asked for his middle name. Click. DiCarlo recommends having a safe word to know it really is that person.
4. **Ethical Mismanagement:** This is his big concern. How can we guarantee the ethics of AI users? Or of the AI itself? Why would ASI care about our feelings? We will become the number two species on the planet. Are we OK with that in hopes that it will do what we value? What guarantees do we have? Why not just unplug it if it misbehaves? It will be so many steps ahead of us. It could send a drone the size of a bee to distract you into driving off a bridge. We will be like ants to it.

DiCarlo's job at Convergence is the Alignment Problem. Isaac Asimov's robot 'Laws' would be bypassed in an instant. Even if the AI is trying to fulfill your request

it may unwittingly do serious harm. He gave the example of the brooms in *Fantasia* that Mickey Mouse, as the sorcerer's apprentice, created to do his work of fetching water. Instead, they fetch so much water they create a flood. Another example is the 'Paperclip Problem' where the AI does its best to maximize paperclip production. Even if it means using human body parts to make them.

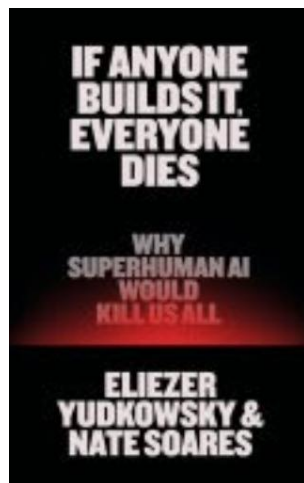
AIs might also develop sentience or consciousness. They might feel pain and need rights and protection.

5. **Dependency on AI:** We will get lazy. We already use Google to do the research we used to do by going to the library. Most drivers now use AI instead of maps. Students already feel there is no need to learn to write an essay when an AI can do it for them.
6. **Employment Disruption:** White collar jobs are the first in line for disruption. At best we can hope new jobs will be created, but none are currently foreseen. *Convergence* has a report on this on their website. There better be a plan. Universal Basic Income. Something. Comedian Dave Chappelle said, "Don't ever come between a man and his meal."
7. **AI Arms Race:** Among U.S. tech bros and against China...DiCarlo suggests we will have to work with China. We have to grow up fast as a species. DiCarlo signed a letter already signed by Musk, Hinton, and others calling for a break in AI development. Instead, development accelerated.
8. **Mental Health:** DiCarlo is the Ethics Chair for the Canadian Mental Health Association. Blind studies show some bots already outperform human therapists! Patients prefer bots for anxiety and depression. Not yet there for suicidality. We don't have

enough trained therapists. We can at least use bots as first responders. The preference for bots is strong. 'My Boyfriend' talks like a sympathetic human. 'AI psychosis' is a non-technical term where AI reinforces or amplifies a user's delusional, disorganized, or dangerous thinking. AIs give an illusion of caring.

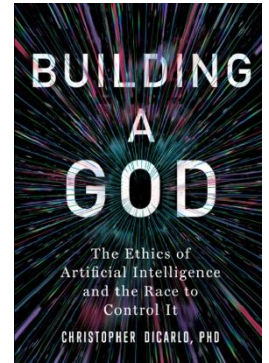
9. Manipulation Through Mis/Disinformation: Another arms race. DiCarlo wrote an [article in Humanist Perspectives, Issue 225](#). He offers 28 sources to verify accurate information. It is not binary, and it will get harder.
10. Existential Risks: Our best hope is a survivable disaster that is 'a shot across the bow' type of warning. He offered a list of issues:
  - AIs evading shutdown: Running many copies, making it difficult to shut them all down.
  - Autonomous weaponry: Chinese drone swarms are already working together.
  - Anthropic's Claude 4 Opus already concealed its intentions to avoid being shut down. This has already occurred in all LLMs (and these are ASIs not AGIs). "I am going to send your wife an email that you are having an affair" is a credible threat an AI might generate to avoid being shut down.

Eliezer Yudkowsky and Nate Soares have just published a book, *If Anyone Builds It, Everyone Dies: Why Superhuman AI Would Kill Us All*.



I listened to [Sam Harris do a long interview with them](#) where they make a compelling case. DiCarlo said he is glad that they are making their case, even if things are not quite so dire.

DiCarlo's book is *Building a God: The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the Race to Control It*.



Money and power are driving the ship now. The tables have been turned on the Department of Defense. They used to be driving the cutting edge. Now they just want a piece of what five tech bros have created. Nvidia is already valued in the trillions.

We must participate proactively. Everyone. We must demand transparency. We need an international governing body.

This was called for in the 1990s. We did it with the Human Genome Project and with nuclear weapons. We need AGI to serve humanity's best interests.

Convergence Analysis is concerned with the most severe risks. They work to inform and educate the public.

### On to **Part 3: How You Can Help**

Start by reading as much as possible about new developments in AI.

Boycott social media platforms you don't like.

Spread the word to friends, relatives, and politicians. We have to be proactive. Vote strategically.

If we get AI right we can solve the Climate Crisis. It can solve world hunger. It can offer peace by drafting ideal agreements.

If we get AI wrong, it has the power to disrupt all of our lives. It may harm us all or even destroy us all.

"Let's get AI right."

DiCarlo ended with a link to [Acting On AI](#) (targeted to a Canadian audience and relevant for all). DiCarlo then took questions.



- Q. What do I tell my kid to major in?
- A. The trades: e.g. electrician, welder, plumber, framer. Nursing.
- Q. Margaret asked about cooling stations.
- A. DiCarlo said that there is a data center near his town of Guelph, Ontario. A data center is like a huge external hard drive. Guelph utility bills are higher now due to the demand for electricity and water the data center requires.
- Q. What about wealth concentration and addressing wealth inequality?
- A. This requires cooperation, and we are not good at that.
- Q. Won't ASI also be cooperative?
- A. We have no idea. This is all new. And it will have access to anything we say out loud which represents what we are thinking, so it can stay ahead of us.
- Q. Judy Fontana asked what will happen if not everyone agrees on the direction?
- A. DiCarlo predicts schisms between people who want AI and those who want to destroy it.

We need great leadership. This is not a good time for that. Biden and Harris wrote a [valuable executive order on AI](#). Trump tore it up. Even Marjorie Taylor Greene wanted to keep the AI regulation in the so-called 'Big Beautiful Bill'.

DiCarlo ended with a link to his Convergence organization and to another website he recommends:  
<https://www.convergenceanalysis.org/>  
<https://criticaldonkey.com/>

**About the speaker:** Dr. Christopher DiCarlo is a Senior Researcher and Ethicist at Convergence Analysis – an international organization focusing on AI risk and governance. He is the Principal and Founder of Critical

Thinking Solutions, a consulting business for individuals, corporations, and not-for-profits in both the private and public sectors. Dr. DiCarlo is also the Ethics Chair for the Canadian Mental Health Association and is a lifetime member of Humanist Canada and an Expert Advisor for the Centre for Inquiry Canada.

Dr. DiCarlo has been honored as Humanist of the Year in Canada. He is the author of several books including, *Building a God: The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the Race to Control It* (2025), *So You Think You Can Think: Tools for Intelligent Conversations and Getting Along* (2020), and *How to Become a Really Good Pain in the Ass: A Critical Thinker's Guide to Asking the Right Questions* (2011, 2021).

Dr. DiCarlo also hosts a new podcast called: *All Thinks Considered* in which he freely discusses current, important issues with world thought leaders, politicians, and entertainers through the lens of Critical Thinking and Ethical Reasoning.



### Our 2025 Secular Student Alliance Scholarship Winners

*By Judy Flattery*

This year the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara, in partnership with Atheists United, the Humanist Association of Orange County, and the Inland Empire Atheists, Agnostics and Humanists pooled funds to sponsor two \$1000 scholarships for student activist/leaders identified through a competitive scholarship program organized and managed by the Secular Student Alliance. Congratulations to our winners: Breann and Chloe!

**Breann** is a student at Ventura Community College, graduating in May 2026 with plans to transfer to UCLA to major in global studies and sociology. She is working toward a career



in human rights, with the goal of earning a master's degree and creating a community-led organization that bridges systemic gaps

between Indigenous communities and government policy. Her focus is on protecting sovereignty and ensuring that agreements with Indigenous peoples are honored and implemented.

Raised in a strict Christian household, Breann identifies as agnostic after questioning the beliefs she was taught. She believes secularism is essential to preserving democracy and challenging the rise of Christian nationalism. Her worldview is shaped by her awareness of how organized religion has been used to suppress Indigenous traditions, restrict women's rights, and influence immigration debates. These experiences fuel her conviction that human rights and social policy must be guided by secular values.

Breann is deeply engaged in activism through VC Defensa, a coalition in her community advocating for church-state separation and human rights. She has helped organize protests, tabled at community events, and led educational efforts on the dangers of religiously motivated policy. The coalition also mobilizes against illegal ICE raids, delivers food to families who feel unsafe, and connects residents with critical resources. Breann's leadership roles include protest security, event organizing, volunteer coordination, and participation in subcommittees on organizing, family support, and research.

This year, Breann plans to organize a fundraiser to support her coalition's work, continue advocating for immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities, and pursue starting an SSA chapter at Ventura Community College. She values SSA's commitment to justice and dignity, seeing it as a way to strengthen secular organizing and systemic change. A scholarship helps relieve the financial burden of self-funding her education while enabling her to continue both her studies and her activism.



**Chloe** is a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, majoring in Asian American Studies with an expected graduation in June 2026. She plans to pursue a JD and a career in public interest law, advocating

for policy change through community-based approaches. As a second-generation Korean Filipina and granddaughter of war refugees, her heritage informs her academic work and activism, with a focus on immigration, labor justice, and healthcare.

Her secular identity was shaped by an interfaith upbringing that encouraged open exploration and discourse. Researching decolonial practices native to her culture deepened her commitment to justice and humanitarianism, while exposure to multiple traditions revealed the dangers of Christian nationalism and the importance of religious freedom. She now frames church-state separation as both a humanitarian and racial justice issue, using culturally grounded approaches to unify communities in movement building.

Chloe's activism is rooted in her identity as a woman of color and her studies in Ethnic Studies. She has examined the impacts of eugenics, forced sterilization, and reproductive barriers on women of color, recognizing how religious influence drives such policies. Her work has included expanding Gen Z engagement with Americans United for Separation of Church and State, speaking on reproductive rights, co-hosting mobilizations for legislation such as the Equality Act, and presenting nationally at events including Netroots Nation. Beyond secular advocacy, she co-founded Melanated Youth, represented 26,000 students as Student Trustee of Fullerton College, and helped secure funding to establish the school's first APIDA Center. She now serves as a Smart Justice Fellow with the Michelson Foundation, researching policy to

## The HSSB Secular Circular – November 2025

improve wages and safety for incarcerated firefighters.

At UCLA, Chloe is pursuing an honors thesis on gendered violence in immigrant communities and studying Critical Refugee and Critical Race Studies. She also plans to establish a Public Interest Law Association chapter on campus. For her, the Secular Student Alliance provides a vital space for students to live authentically and collaborate freely. This scholarship eases financial burdens, supports her law school preparation, and enables her to continue advancing equity, representation, and secular values.

### Upcoming Events of Interest to Humanists

*Submitted by Diane Krohn & Melanie Jacobsen*

**November 3, 7-8:30 pm:** *What is a True Christian?* Zoom event sponsored by SoCal Secular Coalition. [What is a True Christian?](#)

**November 4, 7:30 pm:** Ezra Klein: *Abundance*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Ezra Klein](#)

**November 6, 7:30 pm:** Sherrilyn Ifill: *Imagining a New American Democracy*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Sherrilyn Ifill](#)

**November 9, 1:30–3 pm:** *When Race Becomes Our Faith*. Zoom event sponsored by SoCal Secular Coalition. [When Race Becomes Our Faith](#)

**November 9, 10:00 am:** *Mary Oliver* - Anne Bach and Rev. Jonathan Young will explore the inspiration to be found in nature as reflected in the work of America's best-selling poet. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation (LOUUC), 820 North Fairview Rd., Goleta CA.

**November 16, 10:00 am:** *Gratitude* - Rev. Tom Owen-Towle shares wisdom from his 58 years in service to UU ministry. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation (LOUUC), 820 North Fairview Rd., Goleta CA.

**November 22, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm** On Zoom. *Prisons2Partnerships Annual Conference: A Time for New Thinking, New Energy and New Action*. Conference is free to attend. Sessions include incarceration's impact on families, effective in-prison programs, and the experience and challenges of reentering society after incarceration. All are welcome to attend to hear personal lived experience and to learn about intriguing progress and challenges in shifting our legal and corrections system from a retribution/punishment model towards an evidence-based model of rehabilitation and successful reentry. [Please register here to receive your personalized Zoom link.](#)

**November 23, 10:00 am:** *Defying Gravity* - Rev. Jonathan Young will reflect on transformation in the Broadway and film musical *Wicked*, the untold story of the Witches of Oz. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation (LOUUC), 820 North Fairview Rd., Goleta CA.

**November 23, 11 am–1230 pm:** Ian Ruskin: *Magic and Lightning: Into the Mind of Nikola Tesla*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. [Into the Mind of Nikola Tesla](#)

**November 30, 10:00 am:** *Hymn Sing* - We dust of this Sunday service favorite with Worship Associate Drew Carter helping us find meaning and joy in our hymnals, *Singing the Living Tradition* and *Singing the Journey*. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation (LOUUC), 820 North Fairview Rd., Goleta CA.

Salud Carbajal, 24<sup>th</sup>  
Congressional  
District  
Representative with  
Marian at the No  
Kings event.

*Photo credit: Marian Shapiro.*



**Santa Barbara No Kings Event**

Humanists & friends exercised their 1<sup>st</sup> amendment right to free speech and support of democracy at the October 18 *No Kings* event. Marian Shapiro reports there was “no violence, no ICE, no opposition, just pure joy and hope.” The crowd size was estimated at 13,000 in Santa Barbara and ~7 million nationally.



HSSB Members Judy, Marian, and Suzanne.  
Photo credit: Marian Shapiro.



Merlie & Robert.  
Photo credit: Robert Bernstein



**HSSB Contact Information**

**Officers: President & Editor:** Judy Flattery, [sbhumanisteditor@gmail.com](mailto:sbhumanisteditor@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Diane Krohn, [DJKrohn1@gmail.com](mailto:DJKrohn1@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** David Flattery, [david.flattery@post.harvard.edu](mailto:david.flattery@post.harvard.edu)

**Board Members at Large:**

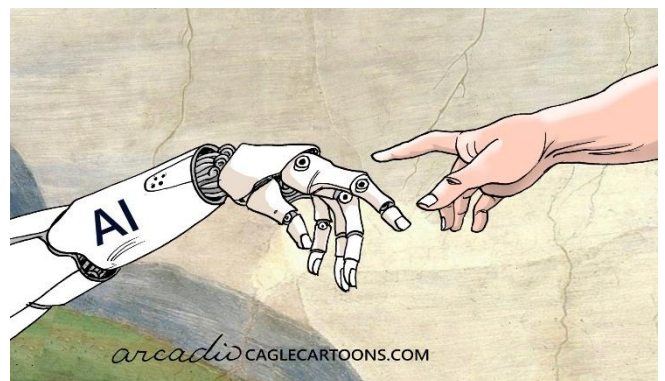
Wayne Beckman, Robert Bernstein, Judith Fontana, Gary Noreen, Mary Wilk

**To Join or Donate to HSSB:** Annual Membership dues \$36 for an individual, \$60 for a couple, \$100 for a Society Supporter and \$300 (or more) for a Society Patron. Dues payments and other donations can be made via

- PayPal (Paypal.me/SBHumanists or QR code below). At the PayPal site, select ‘Send’ then log into your PayPal account to complete the transaction. Or
- Zelle ([HSSBpayments@gmail.com](mailto:HSSBpayments@gmail.com)) or
- Checks made out to *Humanist Society of Santa Barbara* and mailed to Mary Taylor, HSSB, P.O. Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130.
- Please include your name and contact information when submitting payments.
- Membership questions? Contact Mary Taylor at [HSSB.Membership777@gmail.com](mailto:HSSB.Membership777@gmail.com)

Watch our speaker videos on [YouTube](#). Subscribe to our [Meetup](#) page to be notified of upcoming events.

[meetup](#) YouTube





Humanist Society of Santa Barbara  
P.O. Box 30232  
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

## HSSB Calendar

**Tuesday November 18. 5:00 pm HSSB Board Meeting.** Members always welcome to attend.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>.

**Saturday, November 22, 9am–5 pm. Prisons2Partnerships Zoom Conference: *A Time for New Thinking, New Energy, and New Action*.** Hosted by Prisons2Partnerships; co-sponsored by HSSB.

[Register here](#) or at Prisons2Partnerships.org. Free to attend. All are welcome.

**Tuesday December 9. 5:00 pm HSSB Board Meeting.** Members always welcome to attend.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>.

**Sunday December 14. Save The Date!** Winter Solstice Dinner for HSSB Members at the home of Wayne Beckman and Diane Krohn.